vacancies of Judges to be filled up. These vacancies arose on 12.6.1997, 13.7.1997, 21.12.1997, 18.1.1998 and 1.5. 1998.

In the High Court, as on 1.5.1998, against the sanctioned strength of 585 Judges/Additional Judges, 481 Judges/Additional Judges were in position, leaving 104 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges to be filled up. These posts became vacant, from time to time, due to retirement and transfer etc. of the Judges.

The procedure for such appointments involves consultations among several constitutional authorities. Every effort is being made to fill existing vacancies at the earliest.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Uttar Pradesh

711. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of villages in Uttar Pradesh have been denied the modern telephone facilities in spite of the loan sanctioned by the Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the number of villages involved and the reasons for depriving them of modern telephone facilities; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to implement this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) :(a) to (c) A loan was negotiated with the Asian Development Bank to cover 36773 villages of Uttar Pradesh (East). A tender was called for supply of equipment, but the equipment did not meet our technical requirement and as such the tender was cancelled.

We are going ahead with our programme of covering all the villages with telephones during Ninth plan period. A combination of technologies like Under ground cables, overhead line, MARR systems, opening of new exchanges and Wireless in local loop for Macro areas etc. will be used during this period.

[English]

Shortage of Cables

712. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is acute shortage of basic materials like cables etc. in Panskura telephone exchange in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor; and

(c) the measure taken by the Government to step up the supply of the cables and release of necessary funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) There is no shortage.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Supply of funds and Cables is made from time to time based on the development and operational requirements.

Power Generation in the Country

713. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generation during the last three years in the country;

(b) projected power requirement in the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The total energy generation in the country during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given as under:

1995-96	379.877 Billion Units (BU)
1996-97	394.488 BU
1997-98	420.622 BU respectively.

(b) As per the 15th Electric Power Survey report the project energy requirement for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are given as under:

1998-1999	469.507 Billion Units (BU)
1999-2000	502.254 BU
2000-2001	535.93 BU respectively.

(c) To meet the projected demand. Government have initiated various steps which *inter-alia* include addition in capacity, encouraging private sector participation in power generation, better demand side management, energy conservation measures, renovation and modernisation of existing plants, reduction of transmission and distribution losses and effective utilisation of generation capacity by transfer of power from surplus regions to deficit regions through inter-regional links.

High Court Bench in Kolhapur, Maharashtra

714. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no high court bench exists in Kolhapur region of Maharashtra;